CDC’s Division of Global Migration and Quarantine

CDC Role in the Safe Movement of Biologics and Vectors: At the Port of Entry

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Agenda

- What happens at the port of entry?
- What imported items are regulated by CDC?
- What are requirements for importing CDC-regulated items?
- Common issues occurring at ports of entry.
- Tips for importing biologics and vectors safely.
What Happens at the Port of Entry?
The mission of the Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch (QBHSB) is to **protect the public’s health at US borders and beyond.**

**QBHSB accomplishes this mission by:**
- **Preparing** for response to communicable diseases
- **Enhancing** federal, state/territorial, international, and industry partnerships
- **Enforcing** public health regulations
- **Responding** to travel-related communicable diseases
- **Supporting** public health at international borders
At the Port of Entry

CBP Officers and CDC Quarantine Public Health Officers

- Inspect shipments
- Review paperwork
- Verify appropriate packaging
What Imported Items are Regulated by CDC?
Biological Materials: 42 CFR §71.54

Human and animal body fluids and tissues

- Blood
- Fluids
- Organs
- Bones
- Skin
- Muscle
- Connective tissue
- Human remains

Photo credits iStockPhoto
Vectors: 42 CFR §71.54

Known to transfer or are capable of transferring infectious agent to humans

• Arthropods
• Animal products
• Molecular vectors
• Animals
Live Animals: 42 CFR Part 71

Photo credits: iStockPhoto, CC BY-SA (Civet), CDC quarantine stations (Gambian pouched rat)
What happen at the Port of Entry?

What are Requirements for Importing CDC-Regulated Items?
Infectious Biologics and Vectors

- Appropriate packaging and shipping (49 CFR 100-185) [https://www.transportation.gov/]

- CDC Permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors [https://eipp.cdc.gov/]

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Non-infectious Biologics and Vectors

Importer Certification Statement
1. Official letterhead
2. A detailed description of materials
3. Statement affirming material is not infectious AND:
   • Why the material is not believed to be infectious OR
   • How the material was rendered noninfectious
Human Remains: 42 CFR §71.55

Imported for “final resting”
- Cremated remains
- Embalmed remains
  - Certificate of embalming
  - Leakproof container
- Remains not embalmed or cremated
  - Death certificate ± CDC permit
  - Leakproof container

www.cdc.gov/importation/human-remains.html
Human Remains: Cause of Death

- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Infectious tuberculosis
- Plague
- Smallpox
- Yellow fever
- Viral hemorrhagic fevers
- Severe acute respiratory syndromes
  - (SARS, COVID-19)
- Flu that causes a pandemic
- Measles

- Cremated  OR
- Embalmed + Leakproof Container  OR
- CDC Import Permit + Leakproof Container
  Phone: 770-488-7100
  Email: dgmqpolicyoffice@cdc.gov
Focus on canine rabies virus variant (dog rabies)
Dogs and cats must appear healthy on arrival
As of July 14, 2021, temporary suspension of dogs entering U.S. from high-risk countries for dog rabies
   Exceptions:
      Dog has a CDC permit (issued on limited basis) OR
      Dog has valid U.S.-issued rabies vaccination certificate AND is
         at least 6 months old AND
         microchipped

www.cdc.gov/dogpermit
CDC Regulated Animals: Viverridae
42 CFR §71.32 (b)

- Embargo imposed after civets implicated in 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak
- Live Viverridae may only be imported for science, education, or exhibition with CDC permission
- Products require importer certification statement/taxidermy certificate (treated) or import permit (untreated)

Request permit: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov
CDC Regulated Animals: Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins
42 CFR §71.52

- Small turtles caused *Salmonella* outbreaks in children
- CDC regulates:
  - Turtles, tortoises, and terrapins with shells smaller than four inches long
  - Viable turtle eggs
  - These cannot be imported for commercial purposes
  - Six or fewer small turtles, tortoises, or terrapins can be imported as personal pets
  - More than six only for science, education, or exhibition with CDC permission

Request permit: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov

Photo credit: CDC quarantine station
CDC Regulated Animals: African Rodents
42 CFR §71.56

- African rodents may transmit monkeypox
- CDC regulates:
  - Imported rodents obtained in Africa and species native to Africa
  - Live African rodents - may only import for science, education, or exhibition with CDC permission
  - Products require importer certification statement/taxidermy certificate (treated) or import permit (untreated)

Request permit: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov and https://eipp.cdc.gov/
CDC Regulated Animals: Nonhuman Primates
42 CFR §71.53

- Nonhuman primates (NHP) may be infected with various zoonotic diseases
- Live NHP may ONLY be imported for science, education, or exhibition
- Importers must be registered* and regularly inspected by CDC
- Biological materials require CDC permit**
- Hunting trophies require taxidermy certificate

* Email NHPIimporters@cdc.gov
** Apply at https://eipp.cdc.gov/
CDC Regulated Animals: Bats
42 CFR §71.54

- Bats are reservoirs and vectors for many serious zoonotic diseases
- Live bats and biological materials - CDC permit required for import
- Dead bats must have taxidermy certificate stating how treated to render non-infectious

Apply for permit at https://eipp.cdc.gov/

Photo credits: iStockPhoto and CDC quarantine stations
Common Issues Occurring at Ports of Entry:

- Missing/Incomplete Paperwork
- Improper Packaging/Labeling
- Failure to Declare or Declare Accurately
Missing paperwork: Small tortoises

- 100 small tortoises
- No CDC Permit
- Returned to country of origin

Photo credit: Miami CDC quarantine station
Incomplete paperwork: human blood samples

Importer Certification Statement of Non-infectiousness
✓ Official letterhead
✓ A detailed description of materials
✓ Statement affirming:
  ✓ Material not infectious
  X Why the material is not believed to be infectious
  OR
  X How the material was rendered noninfectious

This package contains Whole blood for [redacted] test.
We hereby declare that the specimen have been collected from [redacted].
These diagnostic specimens are non-infectious and not restricted. Do not x-ray.
The package must be delivered immediately to [redacted]. The package does not have any commercial value.
Total Declared Commercial value of the shipment: $1

Sincerely,
Missing paperwork and improper packaging: human blood samples

- No CDC permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors
- No importer certification of non-infectiousness
- Not packaged according to US DOT hazardous materials regulations
Human Remains for Burial, Cremation, or Entombment: Common Issues

X Not packaged in leakproof container
X Documents not in English/no certified English translation
X Death certificate incomplete
X Death certificate lists COVID-19 and no embalming certificate/no CDC permit
Failure to Declare and Missing Paperwork: Diagnostic Biological Samples

Biological samples concealed in box of T-shirts
X Not declared on the manifest
X No importer certification of non-infectiousness
X No CDC permit to Import Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors
Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely
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- Start preparation as early as possible
- Check other federal and state importation regulations
- Consult with others at your institution
- Be transparent with customs officials
Tips for Importing Biologics and Vectors Safely

CDC Resources:
Bringing an Animal Into the United States:
https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/index.html
Bringing Animal Products into the United States:
https://www.cdc.gov/importation/animal-products.html
Importation of Human Remains into the United States for Burial, Entombment, or Cremation:
https://www.cdc.gov/importation/human-remains.html
Import Permit Program:
https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm

External Resources:
United States Department of Agriculture: https://www.usda.gov/
United States Fish and Wildlife Service: https://fws.gov/
United States Department of Transportation: https://www.faa.gov/hazmat/
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State Animal Health Officials
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of Transportation
Contact:
DSAT IPP email  importpermit@cdc.gov
DSAT IPP phone 404-718-2077

DGMQ Animal Imports email: cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov
DGMQ Nonhuman Primates Imports email: NHPImporters@cdc.gov

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.